

Attorney's Docket No.:10559-869001/P17317

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested. New claims and claim amendments are presented herein to obviate the current rejection. No new matter has been added.

The allowance of claims 1-6, 8-9, and 11-12 is gratefully acknowledged.

The rejections under 35 USC § 112 and 35 USC § 103 are respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, in order to expedite allowance of the application, claims 7, 10, 19, and 20 have been deleted.

In addition, claim 18 has been amended to recite placing a pellicle over a reticle, warming the reticle to sublime the solid carbon dioxide layer, removing the pellicle from the reticle, and spraying gas to remove particles on the surface. New claim 29 is an apparatus claim containing means-plus-function features similar to the acts recited in claim 18. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references disclose or otherwise suggest the placement of a pellicle over the reticle and subsequently warming the reticle with a pellicle thereon to sublime the solid carbon dioxide carbon layer, removing the pellicle and then spraying gas to remove particles. Accordingly, claims 18 and 29 should be allowable.

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New claims 20-28 are apparatus claims containing means-plus-function features similar to allowed claim 1 and its dependent claims. Accordingly, claims 20-28 should also be allowable.

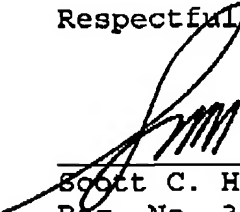
It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

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Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Please apply
any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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